

UTokyo GUC 2026
Sustainability and Tourism: Internship Experience in Okinawa

1	Subject	Sustainability and Tourism: Internship Experience in Okinawa
2	Field	Okinawa, International Relations, Sustainability, Internship
3	Key words	sustainability, tourism, innovation, geopolitics
4	Unit	2.0
5	Lecturer	Takako Hikotani
6	Period	June 1–11, 2026
7	Time	8:30–18:30 (Japan Standard Time)
8	Lecture style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •In-person lectures •Internship and site visits in Okinawa
9	Evaluation Criteria	Excellent (S) 90–100%; Very good (A) 80–89%; Good (B) 70–79%; Pass (C) 60–69%; Fail (D) 0–59%
10	Evaluation methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attendance and active participation in class: 30% •Internship experience: 40% •Final Presentation: 30%
11	Prerequisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Interest in Okinawa and sustainability issues •Interest in working in Japanese organizations •Teamwork skills and willingness to interact with students from diverse backgrounds •Japanese language skills are not required, but those with limited proficiency are strongly encouraged to enroll in the Survival Japanese Course, scheduled during the first week of the program.
12	Contents	<p>Purpose</p> <p>The purpose of the UTokyo Global Unit Courses (GUC) Internship Experience Program is to provide students with an intensive, immersive learning opportunity that integrates academic study with practical experience. Through coursework taught by UTokyo faculty and an internship related to the Sustainable Development Goals, the program aims to deepen students' understanding of global and regional challenges. By combining classroom learning at UTokyo's Hongo Campus with hands-on internships in Okinawa, students gain interdisciplinary perspectives on history, culture, sustainability, and society. The program seeks to foster global competence, critical thinking, and cross-cultural communication in a small, supportive, English-taught learning environment.</p> <p>Description</p> <p>The program consists of two intensive weeks</p> <p><u>Week One</u>: Faculty-led coursework at UTokyo Hongo Campus, examining Okinawa through the lenses of history, politics, culture, sustainability and tourism.</p> <p><u>Week Two</u>: Field trip to OIST (Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology), internship experience at a corporation or foundation in Okinawa, arranged in partnership with the Okinawa Association of Corporate Executives.</p>

12	Contents	Schedule
		<p><u>Day 1 to 5 (Tokyo)</u> Class 1: Okinawa: History, culture and politics Class 2: Sustainability and Tourism in Okinawa Class 3: Okinawa economy and business: working in a Japanese organization</p> <p><u>Day 6 to 11 (Okinawa)</u> Day 6 and 7: Free time (individual excursions) Day 8 : Field trip to OIST (Okinawa Institute for Science and Technology) Day 9 to 11: Internship Experience Day 11: Wrap up and Student Presentations</p>
		Assignments
		<p>Readings prior to classes 1-3 Active participation in internships (in groups) Final Presentations, reflecting on internship experience</p>
13	Required readings	n/a
14	Reference readings	Reference readings will be provided in class
15	Notes on Taking the Course	